

Message Text

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73-61

ACTION IO-14

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9383

INFO AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, KN, KS, NP

SUBJ: NEPALESE PERMREP'S IMPRESSIONS FROM VISIT TO

NORTH AND SOUTH KOREA.

1. NEPALESE PERMREP UPADHYAY, WHO MAKES GOOD IMPRESSION AS
A CALM, SERIOUS POLITICAL OBSERVER, GAVE AMBASSADOR
BENNETT HIS REACTIONS AFTER VISITS THIS PAST SUMMER TO
BOTH NORTH AND SOUTH KOREA.

2. UPADHYAY WAS STRUCK WITH THE EXTENT OF ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT ON BOTH COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY SOUTH KOREA.
TO AMBASSADOR BENNETT'S OBSERVATION THAT ROK HAD THE
MOST RAPIDLY INCREASING GNP IN ASIA AFTER JAPAN, NEPALESE
PEREMREP REMARKED THAT THIS WAS INDEED A REMARKABLE
NATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT. HOWEVER, HE COMMENTED, DIFFERENCE
BETWEEN RICH AND POOR WERE MUCH MORE APPARENT THAN IN
NORTH KOREA.

3. FROM FIRM POSITIONS TAKEN WITH HIM IN PYONYANG,
UPADHYAY HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT NORTH KOREA DID NOT CON-
SIDER ITSELF AS BEING UNDER CONTROL OF EITHER CHINA OR
USSR. IN PARTICULAR, HE BELIEVED SOVIETS HAD LOST GROUND
IN NORTH KOREA. HE WAS EXPECIALLY STRUCK WITH THE STRONG
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PERSONALITY CULT IN NORTH KOREA, WHICH HE FELT WAS FAR MORE

ADVANCED AND PERVERSIVE THAT EVEN IN CHINA. ON OTHER HAND HE CONSIDERED ROK ALSO HAD SOME ATTRIBUTES OF A POLICE STATE.

4. UPADHYAY WONDERED WHY IT WAS NECESSARY TO RETAIN 40,000 U.S. TROOPS IN SOUTH KOREA. BENNETT RESPONDED WITH GENERAL EXPLANATION, COMMENTING ON CONTRIBUTION TO STABILITY OF THE AREA, AND FACT THAT FORCES SERVE TO PREVENT MILITARY ADVENTURISM BY EITHER SIDE. THIS LAST WAS A NEW THOUGHT TO UPADHYAY AND HE SEEMED IMPRESSED (BOTH HOSTS HAD INSISTED HE VISIT FROM DMZ FROM THEIR RESPECTIVE SIDES).

5. WHILE UPADHYAY SEEMED GENERALLY MORE DISPOSED TOWARDS ROK THAN DPRK, HE WAS NON-COMMITTAL WITH RESPECT TO KOREAN ISSUE AND THE TWO RESOLUTIONS NOW CIRCULATING.
BENNETT

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